

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1–2 (cancelled)

Claim 3 (previously presented): An operation tool to be mounted on a support member;

wherein said operation tool includes:

an operation portion to be operated by an operator;

a mounting portion formed spaced apart from the operation portion in a direction where an impact is applied to the operation tool, the mounting portion being arranged to be mounted on fixed to the support member; and

a crashable connecting portion for connecting together the operation portion and the mounting portion, the crashable connecting portion being adapted to be crashed upon an impact force exerted on the operation portion such that when the crashable connecting portion is crashed, the operation portion moves with respect to the mounting portion,

wherein said crashable connecting portion radially extends from the mounting portion to the operation portion, and

wherein said crashable connecting portion includes plural bridge portions radially extending between the mounting portion and the operation portion so as to connect together said mounting portion and said operation portion.

Claim 4 (currently amended): ~~The operation tool according to Claim 3, An~~
operation tool to be mounted on a support member;

wherein said operation tool includes:

an operation portion to be operated by an operator;

a mounting portion formed spaced apart from the operation portion in a direction where an impact is applied to the operation tool, the mounting portion being arranged to be mounted on fixed to the support member; and

a crashable connecting portion for connecting together the operation portion and the mounting portion, the crashable connecting portion being adapted to be crashed upon

an impact force exerted on the operation portion such that when the crashable connecting portion is crashed, the operation portion moves with respect to the mounting portion,
wherein said crashable connecting portion radially extends from the mounting portion to the operation portion, and
wherein said crashable connecting portion includes plural bridge portions radially extending between the mounting portion and the operation portion so as to connect together said mounting portion and said operation portion,

wherein each of the bridge portions has a cross section of which the thickness, in a direction along a shaft, is smaller than the width thereof, in a direction perpendicular to the shaft.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The operation tool according as set forth in Claim 3,

wherein a portion of the crashable connecting portion is bent along a length of the crashable connecting portion.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The operation tool according to Claim 3,
wherein the crashable connecting portion has a cut-away portion between the mounting portion and the operation portion.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The operation tool according to Claim 3, further comprising:

an outside piece including an outer tube portion constituting the operation portion;
and

an inside piece including an inner tube portion to be fitted with the outer tube portion;
wherein the inside piece has a structure in which the inner tube portion and the mounting portion on the inner peripheral side thereof are connected together by the crashable connecting portion.

Claims 8–12 (cancelled)

Claim 13 (previously presented): The operation tool of Claim 3, wherein the mounting portion does not move upon the impact force exerted on the outer knob.

Claim 14 (new): An operation tool comprising:
an inner knob including:
 an inside cylindrical portion;
 a mounting cylindrical portion; and
 a crashable connecting portion attached between and connecting the inside cylindrical portion and the mounting cylindrical portion,
 wherein the crashable connecting portion includes a plurality of bridge portions radially extending between the inside cylindrical portion and the mounting cylindrical portion; and
an outer knob including:
 an outside cylindrical portion; and
 a front plate portion coupled to an end portion of the outside cylindrical portion thereby forming a cap-like shape,
 wherein the outside cylindrical portion is of a size corresponding to the inside cylindrical portion such that inside cylindrical portion can be pressure fitted into the outside cylindrical portion.